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Edited Transcript
of a Speech Presented to the
Alberta Fish and Game
Association
by the Honourable Don Sparrow
February 25, 1984


Alberta
ENERGY AND
NATURAL RESOURCES

DON
5629012

OPENING REMARKS

THANK YOU VERY MUCH RON. IT IS INDEED A PLEASURE TO BE BACK HERE AGAIN THIS YEAR. IT'S BEEN A VERY RAPID LEARNING EXPERIENCE FOR ME AS A NEW MINISTER AND NEW TO THE POLITICAL FIELD. IT WAS GRATIFYING THOUGH, TO SIT THROUGH YOUR DISCUSSIONS YESTERDAY YOU HAD SOME EXCELLENT PROGRAMS, YOUR KEYNOTE SPEAKER YESTERDAY, CLARK BAVIN, HEAD OF U.S. FISH & WILDLIFE SERVICE, DID AN EXCELLENT JOB GIVING US AN OVERVIEW OF LAW ENFORCEMENT ACTIVITIES PARTICULARLY IN THE AREA OF MANAGEMENT CONCERNS AND ESPECIALLY, THE PROBLEMS RELATED TO ILLEGAL TRAFFICKING OF WILDLIFE IN THE UNITED STATES. HE PROVIDED AN ENJOYABLE & IMPORTANT CONTRIBUTION TO THIS CONVENTION.

THE TALK YESTERDAY FROM THE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE ALBERTA PARKS AND RECREATION WILDLIFE FOUNDATION IS VERY, VERY KEY -- IT'S AMAZING WHAT CAN BE DONE IN THREE YEARS (1980-1983). THE PROJECTS THAT HE LISTED, THE ACCOMPLISHMENTS, SUGGEST THAT WE SHOULD BE USING THIS ORGANIZATION A LOT MORE. HE THREW SOME INVITATIONS OUT TO YOU GUYS. LET'S ACT ON THAT. HE SAID I WAS WORKING THE BACK ROOMS -- HE WAS RIGHT. THERE'S A LITTLE MORE COMING THAN HE MAY EXPECT.



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AND I'D LIKE TO CONGRATULATE DENNIS SURRENDI. FROM THE COMMENTS I'VE HEARD ON HIS SPEECH, I UNDERSTAND THERE'S ALREADY ENOUGH REQUESTS THAT HE'S GOING TO BE AT WESTERN CANADA OUTDOORS. THAT'S A COMPLIMENT TO DENNIS AND OUR STAFF -- A GOOD JOB WELL DONE.

IT'S BEEN A LONG YEAR, AS I'VE SAID. IT DOESN'T SEEM THAT LONG SINCE I SPOKE TO YOU LAST YEAR IN GRANDE PRAIRIE. MANY EVENTS HAVE OCCURRED SINCE THEN; SOME I AM SURE YOU SUPPORTED, OTHERS YOU MAY NOT HAVE. BUT THAT IS THE DEMOCRATIC PROCESS AND IT WOULD BE TOO EASY IF EVERYONE AGREED ON EVERYTHING.

IN MY BUSINESS LIFE, IN MY BACKGROUND, I'VE BEEN FORTUNATE TO SIT ON MOST BOARDS WITH FOUR BROTHERS WHERE EACH ONE OF US HAD A VETO SO WE HAD TO CONVINCE EACH OTHER ON A COMPROMISE OR WE DIDN'T GET ANYTHING DONE. WE LEARNED TO GIVE AND TAKE AND I LEARNED I DIDN'T GET MY WAY ALL THE TIME, BUT WHEN A DECISION WAS MADE, WE TOOK THAT DECISION AS A GROUP AND MOVED FORWARD WITH IT. I FIND NOW, IN THE POLITICAL ARENA, I HAVE SEVENTY-FOUR BROTHERS AND ONE VOTE -- AND TWO MILLION PEOPLE AND MANY ORGANIZATIONS TELLING ME HOW TO USE IT. IT'S GETTING TO BE A TOUGHER DECISION MAKING PROCESS TRYING TO GET CONSENSUS OF OPINION AND SOLVING THE ISSUES OF THE DAY. WE'RE WORKING HARD ON IT THOUGH, AND ENJOYING IT.

AND I'D LIKE TO CONGRATULATE SENATOR MONTGOMERY. FROM HIS
COMMENTS I'VE HEARD ON HIS BEHALF, I'VE HEARD THAT
ALREADY SENATOR MONTGOMERY THAT HE'S GOING TO BE AN ACTIVE
CANADA OUTLOOK. THAT'S A COMMITMENT TO SENATE AND THE
STATE -- A GOOD JOB WELL DONE.

IT'S BEEN A LONG YEAR, AS I'VE SAID. IT COULDN'T BE THAT
LONG SINCE I WROTE TO YOU LAST YEAR IN CANADA TRAVELING.
THAT'S BECAUSE I'VE BEEN OCCUPYING MYSELF SINCE THEN. I AM NOT
RECOVERING, OTHERS YOU MAY HAVE. BUT THAT IS THE
DEMOCRATIC PROCESS AND IT WOULD BE THE END IF EVERYONE
WAS ON EVERYTHING.

IN MY BUSINESS LIFE, IN MY EDUCATION, I'VE BEEN INVOLVED
TO GET ON MOST OF THE WITH THE SENATORS WHEN EACH ONE IN
HE HAS A VETO TO ME AND TO SENATORS EACH OTHER ON A
COMPROMISE OR WE DIDN'T GET ANYTHING DONE. HE LEANED TO
GIVE AND TAKE AND I LEARNED I DIDN'T GET MY WAY ALL THE
TIME. BUT WHEN A DECISION WAS MADE, HE TOOK THAT DECISION AS
A GROUP AND MOVED FORWARD WITH IT. I LIKE NOW, IN THE
POLITICAL AREA, I HAVE SEVENTY-TWO SENATORS AND THE
VOTE -- AND TWO MILLION PEOPLE AND MANY GOVERNMENTS
TALKING ME NOW TO USE IT. IT'S GOING TO BE A TALKING
DECISION MAKING PROCESS TRYING TO GET CONSENSUS OR UNANIMITY
AND SOLVING THE ISSUE OF THE DAY. WE'RE WORKING HARD ON IT
THROUGH AND ENJOYING IT.

AFTER THE NOVEMBER ELECTION, I WAS ASKED BY THE PREMIER TO JOIN THE CABINET AND BECOME THE ASSOCIATE MINISTER OF PUBLIC LANDS AND WILDLIFE. I ALSO SIT ON FIVE OF THE KEY CABINET COMMITTEES: ECONOMIC PLANNING, RURAL DEVELOPMENT, THE ENERGY COMMITTEE, KANANASKIS PARK COMMITTEE AND NATIVE AFFAIRS. THAT TAKES UP A FAIR AMOUNT OF TIME. BESIDE THAT -- TRYING TO DO A GOOD JOB AS MLA, AND GETTING OUT TO THORSBY ONCE IN A WHILE REALLY CREATES A PROBLEM. AS AN MLA, I HAVE TO RESPOND TO PEOPLE IN THREE CITIES, FOUR TOWNS, THE BIG VILLAGE OF THORSBY, TEN SUMMER VILLAGES, TWO COUNTIES -- AND EACH ONE OF THEM HAS BOARDS, SCHOOL BOARDS, HOSPITALS, AND YOU NAME IT. THEY'VE ALL GOT PRESSURE ON YOUR TIME. BUT IT IS EXCITING AND IF IT WEREN'T FOR OUR EXCELLENT STAFF, AT TIMES, WE'D NEVER EVER ACCOMPLISH IT.

BUSINESS INVOLVEMENT

THERE'S BEEN SOME CONFUSION ABOUT ME STILL BEING INVOLVED IN BUSINESS, BUT I CAN ASSURE YOU THAT WHEN I ACCEPTED MY CABINET POST, THAT I HAD TO RESIGN FROM THE TWENTY-TWO DIFFERENT BOARDS AND AGENCIES THAT I WAS ON. I SOLD SOME THIRTY-FIVE INVESTMENTS AND COMPANIES THAT I WAS INVOLVED IN, AND WHATEVER WAS LEFT, THE BALANCE, WAS PUT INTO A BLIND TRUST. THEREFORE, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN I CAN ASSURE YOU THAT I AM TOTALLY COMMITTED TO WORKING FOR THE PEOPLE OF THE PROVINCE OF ALBERTA, AND FOR YOU AS THE MINISTER OF PUBLIC LANDS AND WILDLIFE.

AFTER THE MONTREAL MEETING, I WAS ASKED BY THE PRESIDENT TO
JOIN THE CABINET AND BECOME THE ASSOCIATE MINISTER OF
LANDS AND FORESTS. I ALSO MET ON VARIOUS OCCASIONS
COMMITTEES: ECONOMIC PLANNING, SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT, THE
ENERGY COMMITTEE, PARANATITE PARK COMMITTEE AND OTHERS.
ATTENDING. THAT TAKES UP A FAIR AMOUNT OF TIME. BEING
THAT -- TRYING TO DO A GOOD JOB AS M.L.A. AND TRYING TO DO
THINGS ONCE IN A WHILE REALLY CREATES A PROBLEM. AS AN
M.L.A., I HAVE TO RESPOND TO PEOPLE IN THEIR CITIES, VARIOUS
TOWNS, THE OLD VILLAGES OF THURSDAY, THE HOUSE VILLAGES, THE
COUNTRIES -- AND EACH ONE OF THEM HAS SOME SPECIAL
HOSPITALS, AND YOU HAVE TO TRY TO MAKE IT. THAT'S ALL, BUT BEHIND THE
YOUR TIME. BUT IT IS EXCITING AND IN IT WEAREN'T FOR THE
EXCELLENT STAFF. AT TIMES, WE'VE HAD SOME INTERESTING

THERE'S BEEN SOME CONSIDERATION ABOUT ME STILL BEING INVOLVED IN
BUSINESS, BUT I CAN ASSURE YOU THAT WHEN I ACCEPTED TO
CABINET POST, THAT I HAD TO RESIGN FROM THE OTHER TWO
DIFFERENT HOUSE AND AGENCIES THAT I WAS ON. I WAS LEAVING
THIRTY-FIVE INVESTMENTS AND COMPANIES THAT I WAS INVOLVED
IN, AND WHATEVER WAS LEFT, THE BALANCE, WAS PUT INTO A TRUST
TRUST. THEREFORE, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN I CAN ASSURE YOU
THAT I AM TOTALLY COMMITTED TO WORKING FOR THE PEOPLE OF THE
PROVINCE OF ALBERTA. AND FOR YOU AS THE MINISTER OF LANDS
AND FORESTS.

DEPARTMENT OVERVIEW

SOMETIMES WE DON'T TALK ABOUT THE THINGS WE DO, THE RANGE OF OUR RESPONSIBILITIES, AND WHY WE DO WHAT WE DO. I NOTICE BY LOOKING THROUGH YOUR RESOLUTIONS THAT I SHOULD CLARIFY WHAT OUR DEPARTMENT'S ALL ABOUT. WE HAVE OUR DEPUTY MINISTER, FRED McDOUGALL, HERE; HE'S IN CHARGE OF ALL THE RENEWABLE RESOURCES IN THE PROVINCE. WE ALSO HAVE A DEPUTY MINISTER IN CHARGE OF NON-RENEWABLE RESOURCES. UNDER FRED, WE HAVE THE COMPLETE ADMINISTRATION OF ALL PUBLIC LANDS -- WHICH IS ABOUT 2/3 OF THE TOTAL LAND AREA OF THE PROVINCE -- ALL THE LEASES, LAND DISPOSITIONS, AND GRAZING RESERVES. WE HAVE THE PLANNING RESPONSIBILITY FOR ALL THOSE LANDS, THROUGH WHAT IS KNOWN AS INTEGRATED RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLANS. YOU'RE GOING TO HEAR A LOT MORE ABOUT IMP'S.

PRESENTLY THERE ARE TWELVE MAJOR IMP'S, INTEGRATED RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLANS, THAT SHOULD BE SEEING FINAL APPROVAL. SOME OF THESE PLANS WERE STARTED AS EARLY AS SEVEN OR EIGHT YEARS AGO. YOUR ORGANIZATION, WITH RON GLADISH AS YOUR PRESIDENT, SITS ON AN ADVISORY COMMITTEE TO ME AND YOUR REPRESENTATIVES HAVE SAT ON THAT COMMITTEE ALL THESE YEARS.

THESE PLANS ARE NEARING COMPLETION, GETTING READY TO GO TO THE PUBLIC FOR THEIR INPUT. AND I CAN ASSURE YOU THAT YOUR PRESIDENT AND HIS REPRESENTATIVES HAVE HAD A LOT OF INPUT INTO THE FUTURE PLANNING OF THIS PROVINCE AND ALL THAT PUBLIC LAND.

SOMETIMES WE DON'T TALK ABOUT THE THINGS WE DO, THE IMAGE OF OUR RESPONSIBILITIES, AND WHY WE DO WHAT WE DO. I NOTICE BY LOOKING THROUGH YOUR NEGOTIATIONS THAT A GOOD CLARITY WHAT OUR DUTYMENT'S ALL ABOUT. WE HAVE OUR DUTY DUTYMENT, THEN NEGOTIATE, THEN NEGOTIATE, THEN NEGOTIATE IN CHARGE OF ALL THE NEGOTIABLE RESOURCES IN THE PROVINCE. WE ALSO HAVE A DUTY DUTYMENT IN CHARGE OF NON-NEGOTIABLE RESOURCES. THESE THINGS -- WE HAVE TWO COMPLETE ADMINISTRATION OF ALL PUBLIC LANDS -- WHICH IS ABOUT 2/3 OF THE TOTAL LAND AREA OF THE PROVINCE -- ALL THE LEASES, LAND DISPOSITIONS, AND GRADING RESOURCES. WE HAVE THE PLANNING RESPONSIBILITY FOR ALL THOSE LANDS, THROUGH WHAT IS KNOWN AS INTEGRATED RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLANS. YOU'RE GOING TO HAVE A TWO PART PLAN, THE FIRST PART ARE TWENTY NINE THE SECOND PART ARE TWENTY NINE. INTEGRATED RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLANS, THAT SHOULD BE BEING FINAL APPROVAL. SOME OF THESE PLANS WERE STARTED AS EARLY AS SEVEN OR EIGHT YEARS AGO. YOUR ORGANIZATION, WITH NOW LEADERS ARE YOUR PRESIDENT, WITH AN ADVISORY COMMITTEE TO ME AND YOUR REPRESENTATIVES HAVE SET ON THAT COMMITTEE ALL THESE YEARS. THESE PLANS ARE BEING COMPLETED, GIVING THEM IN TO THE PUBLIC FOR THEIR INPUT. AND I CAN ASSURE YOU THAT YOUR PRESIDENT AND HIS REPRESENTATIVES HAVE BEEN A LOT OF INPUT INTO THE PLANNING OF THE PROVINCE AND ALL THE PUBLIC LAND.

WE ALSO, OF COURSE, HAVE TOTAL RESPONSIBILITY, UNDER DENNIS SURRENDI, FOR FISH AND WILDLIFE -- AND IT'S VERY GRATIFYING TO SEE THAT AS PART OF THIS DEPARTMENT BECAUSE IT AFFECTS EVERYTHING WE DO. WE ALSO HAVE THE RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE MAPPING AND ALL LEGAL SURVEYING IN THE PROVINCE. THAT ALSO TIES INTO LONG TERM PLANNING. AS WELL, WE HAVE THE TASK OF ADMINISTRATING RULES OF LAND AGENTS, AND FOREIGN OWNERSHIP OF LAND REGULATIONS. ALL THIS REALLY FALLS ON ONE DEPUTY MINISTER, THREE ASSISTANT DEPUTY MINISTERS AND ABOUT EIGHT HUNDRED EMPLOYEES SO IT DOES BECOME A FAIRLY LARGE WORKLOAD.

RELATION WITH ASSOCIATION

IT CERTAINLY IS A PLEASURE THOUGH TO ATTEND YOUR CONVENTION AND SPECIFICALLY ADDRESS THE PAST YEAR'S INVOLVEMENT WITH YOU. IT'S BEEN A PLEASURE TO WORK WITH YOUR ASSOCIATION OVER THE PAST YEAR. WE'VE MET ON NUMEROUS OCCASIONS NOT ONLY WITH RON BUT WITH MEMBERS OF YOUR EXECUTIVE. WE HAVEN'T ALWAYS AGREED ON EVERY ISSUE, BUT WE'VE SURE THRASHED THEM AROUND. IT HAS BEEN A GOOD WORKING RELATIONSHIP AND I AM VERY CERTAIN THAT THIS POSITIVE EXCHANGE OF IDEAS WILL CONTINUE IN THE FUTURE.



I'M REALLY EXCITED -- AND YOU ARE VERY FORTUNATE -- TO HAVE AS YOUR VICE-PRESIDENT, JACK SHAVER, WHO HAS BEEN WORKING HARD TO REPRESENT YOU TO THE GOVERNMENT. JACK WAS ELECTED AS CHAIRMAN OF THE FISH AND WILDLIFE ADVISORY COUNCIL AND I AM CERTAIN THAT THIS GROUP OF TWENTY-TWO ORGANIZATIONS, UNDER JACK'S CHAIRMANSHIP, WILL PERFORM A ROLE THAT IS VERY NECESSARY TO THE DECISION-MAKING PROCESS OVER LONG-TERM PLANNING ACTIVITIES IN THIS PROVINCE. THANK YOU FOR ACCEPTING THAT, JACK, AND WE'RE LOOKING FORWARD TO MEETING WITH YOU OVER THE COMING YEAR.

WILDLIFE ACT REVISION

PERHAPS ONE OF THE MORE PROMINENT EVENTS WHICH WILL REQUIRE OUR ATTENTION THIS YEAR IS THE REVISION OF THE WILDLIFE ACT. I HOPE THE CONCEPT OF INTRODUCING CHANGE THROUGH PUBLIC PARTICIPATION AND COMMENT WILL PROVIDE ME WITH A STRONG BASE OF OPINION ON WHICH TO BRING ABOUT LEGISLATIVE CHANGES TO MEET THE RESOURCE CHALLENGE BEFORE US.

I CERTAINLY BELIEVE THAT WITH THE ADVICE AND COUNSEL OF ALL THOSE GROUPS SUCH AS THE ALBERTA FISH AND GAME ASSOCIATION, WE CAN PROVIDE A NEW CONTEMPORARY ACT THAT ADDRESSES YOUR CONCERNS AS FISH AND WILDLIFE ADVOCATES. I'M LOOKING FORWARD TO YOUR DISCUSSION THIS AFTERNOON ON THIS SUBJECT.

AS YOU'RE NO DOUBT AWARE, I'VE EXTENDED THE TIME FOR PUBLIC RESPONSE TO THE PROPOSED REVISIONS TO THE WILDLIFE ACT TO APRIL 13. I WOULD ENCOURAGE ANY OF THOSE CLUBS THAT HAVE NOT ALREADY RESPONDED, OR IF THEY WISH TO PROVIDE US WITH FURTHER INPUT, TO DO SO BEFORE THAT DATE. WE ARE ANALYZING THE REAMS OF PRESENTATIONS THAT HAVE BEEN GIVEN TO US, AND WE HOPE THAT, SHORTLY AFTER APRIL 13, WE'LL BE ABLE TO FINALIZE A DRAFT OF THE NEW ACT, AND GIVE A FIRST READING IN THE SPRING LEGISLATIVE SESSION. HAD WE NOT EXTENDED THE TIME FRAME FOR PUBLIC INPUT, WE MAY HAVE CONSIDERED SECOND AND THIRD READING IN THE SPRING SESSION. BUT IN ORDER TO ALLOW YOU FURTHER OPPORTUNITY TO LOOK AT THAT FINAL DRAFT AND GIVE US YOUR THOUGHTS, I DON'T INTEND TO PRESS FOR SECOND AND THIRD READINGS UNTIL FALL. THEREFORE, WE CAN LOOK AT WHAT THAT ACT WILL LOOK LIKE, HAVE A FURTHER CHANCE FOR INPUT, AND MAKE REVISIONS TO IT PRIOR TO THE SECOND AND THIRD READINGS.

IT IS OUR INTENTION TO DEVELOP A POLICY WHITE PAPER ON GAME RANCHING AND ONE ON GAME FARMING FOR REVIEW AND COMMENT BY THE FISH AND WILDLIFE ADVISORY COUNCIL. I WOULD SUGGEST THAT ALL INTEREST GROUPS AWAIT THAT OPPORTUNITY TO DISCUSS THOSE PAPERS, AND REVIEW THE POLICIES BEFORE DRAWING ANY CONCLUSIONS ONE WAY OR THE OTHER.

YOUR KEYNOTE SPEAKER YESTERDAY, CLARK BAVIN, YESTERDAY, REALLY BROUGHT TO THE FOREFRONT THE PROBLEM OF ILLEGAL TRAFFICKING OF WILDLIFE. HE MADE YOU THINK AND I'D LIKE TO HAVE SOME DISCUSSION THIS AFTERNOON ABOUT THIS. IT SEEMS THAT HISTORY HAS PROVEN TIME AND TIME AGAIN THAT IF THERE'S A DEMAND FOR SOMETHING THE SUPPLY WILL BE THERE, EITHER LEGALLY OR ILLEGALLY. WE'RE DOING EVERYTHING WE CAN AND WE MUST PUT A STOP TO THE ILLEGAL TRAFFICKING OF WILDLIFE, ONE WAY OR THE OTHER. WE ARE NOT GOING TO RUSH WITH THAT WHITE PAPER BUT I'M SURE, THAT A YEAR FROM NOW, THE WHITE PAPER CAN BE APPROVED AND GO THROUGH THE POLICY PROCESS.

ALL THE IDEAS AND DISCUSSIONS THAT ARE IN THE WILDLIFE ACT ARE SOMETHING FOR YOU, IN THE ALBERTA FISH & GAME ASSOCIATION, AND FOR US, IN GOVERNMENT TO CONSIDER. WHAT WE ARE TRYING TO DO IS REVERSE WHAT HAS HAPPENED IN THE PAST. THE REGULATIONS, HISTORICALLY, HAVE BEEN VERY NEGATIVE. WE'RE TRYING TO MAKE THOSE NEGATIVES POSITIVE -- TO SHOW THE PEOPLE OF THE PROVINCE WHAT YOU CAN DO AND WHERE YOU CAN GO. WE'RE SIMPLY REVERSING THE NORMAL LEGAL LANGUAGE -- SO WHEN YOU SEE THE ACT, DON'T OVER-REACT. ON MAJOR ISSUES LIKE GAME RANCHING, BEFORE THOSE REGULATIONS ARE FINALIZED, I'M SURE WE'RE GOING TO HAVE INPUT FROM YOUR EXECUTIVE AND REPRESENTATIVES.

"STATUS REPORT ON FISH

THE "STATUS REPORT ON FISH AND WILDLIFE IN ALBERTA". IS AND WILDLIFE" GOING AHEAD. ONE OF MY COLLEAGUES, MLA JACK CAMPBELL FROM ROCKY MOUNTAIN HOUSE, HAS PRESENTED THIS TO THE ADVISORY COUNCIL. WE'RE LOOKING FORWARD TO HAVING THAT APPROVED BY THE GOVERNMENT THIS YEAR. FOLLOWING THAT, THE DIFFICULT TASK OF DEVELOPING INDIVIDUAL SPECIES MANAGEMENT PLANS WILL COMMENCE.

MOUNT ALLEN SKI SITE

A YEAR AGO IT WAS ANNOUNCED AND HAS SINCE BEEN CONFIRMED BY ALL THE APPROVING AUTHORITIES THAT MOUNT ALLAN IS TO BE DEVELOPED AS ONE OF THE SKI SITES FOR THE 1988 WINTER OLYMPICS. AS THE MINISTER RESPONSIBLE FOR WILDLIFE, I WANT TO ASSURE YOU THAT EVERY NECESSARY PRECAUTION HAS BEEN TAKEN TO PROTECT THE INTEREST OF THE BIGHORN SHEEP HERD WHICH WINTERS ON MOUNT ALLAN. MY ADVISORS ON WILDLIFE MATTERS HAVE INDICATED THE WELFARE OF THE SHEEP IS CONTINUALLY BEING CONSIDERED IN THE DESIGN OF THESE FACILITIES. WHILE I REALIZE THE CONCERN OF YOUR ASSOCIATION ON THE MOUNT ALLAN ISSUE, YOUR UNDERSTANDING IS APPRECIATED.

AS I MENTIONED BEFORE, IT IS IMPORTANT TO HAVE INPUT INTO THE FUTURE PLANNING OF OUR PROVINCE. I THINK IT'S EQUALLY IMPORTANT THAT WE, AS ALBERTANS, BECOME PART OF FUTURE OPPORTUNITIES AND ESPECIALLY, BECOME PART OF AND WILLING TO PARTICIPATE IN THE '88 OLYMPICS. IT'S GOING TO BE A GREAT EVENT FOR OUR PROVINCE.



PUBLIC INFORMATION PROGRAM:

LAND ACCESS

I'D ALSO LIKE TO THANK YOUR ASSOCIATION FOR ITS SUPPORT AND RECOGNITION OF THE PUBLIC INFORMATION PROGRAM AND OUR SPOKESMAN, LANNY MACDONALD. THE PROGRAM HAS BEEN WELL RECEIVED BY THE PUBLIC AND IT IS OUR INTENT TO PURSUE A SECOND SERIES OF ANNOUNCEMENTS IN APRIL OF THIS YEAR. THE KEY TO LAND ACCESS IS PROPER COMMUNICATION AND MUTUAL RESPECT BETWEEN THE LAND MANAGER AND THE RECREATIONAL PUBLIC.

WHILE SPEAKING ABOUT INFORMATION PROGRAMS, I WOULD LIKE TO TAKE A MOMENT TO RECOGNIZE THE EFFORTS OF THE FOREMOST ASSOCIATION AND THE SOUTHERN ALBERTA SPORTSMENS' GROUPS FOR THEIR ROLES IN THE OPERATION OF THE RESPECT PROGRAM. THEIR EFFORTS TO IMPROVE LANDOWNER-SPORTSMAN RELATIONSHIPS WERE A MAJOR SUCCESS. I'D LIKE TO CONGRATULATE THEM FOR THEIR EFFORTS IN THAT AREA. AND I WOULD URGE ALL CLUBS TO CONSIDER A SIMILAR PROGRAM. A SMILE AND A HANDSHAKE WILL ALWAYS BRING GOOD RETURNS.

I THINK THAT THE SUCCESS OF WHAT THEY DID THERE PROVES THAT PROPER LAND MANAGEMENT -- WHICH WE HAVE A LOT TO SAY ABOUT -- YOUR RESPECT PROGRAM, AND A VOLUNTARY DESIGNATED-ROUTE SYSTEM WILL BE THE KEY TO SOLVING SOME OF OUR ACCESS PROBLEMS. I DON'T REALLY BELIEVE THAT LEGISLATION IS THE CURE. WE'VE GOT TO SOLVE THAT PROBLEM BY COMMUNICATION AND RESPECT FOR EACH OTHER.



HUNTER EDUCATION PROGRAM

WE ARE ALSO MAKING GOOD PROGRESS IN OUR EFFORT TO ENHANCE AND STRENGTHEN THE HUNTER EDUCATION PROGRAM. AS WE EXPECTED, THERE HAS BEEN SOME APPREHENSION ABOUT THE ADMINISTRATIVE CHANGES THAT WE'VE MADE. I WISH TO REITERATE THOUGH THAT WE DO NOT INTEND TO DELETE THE PRESENT PROGRAM. WHAT IS INTENDED IS TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF, AND USE, THAT FORCE OF PEOPLE WHO ENCOURAGED, SUPPORTED, AND ASKED FOR THIS KIND OF PROGRAM -- ALBERTA'S ORGANIZED SPORTSMEN.

LAND ACQUISITION:

RECREATIONAL USE

YOUR ZONE DIRECTORS ARE CURRENTLY WORKING WITH OUR DEPARTMENT LOCATING SITES FOR SHOOTING RANGES AND CONSERVATION CAMPS FOR YOUR FIVE ZONES. HOPEFULLY BY THIS TIME NEXT YEAR, WE WILL HAVE SUCH FACILITIES TO SERVE THE INTERESTS OF EACH ZONE. WE CAN HELP YOU WITH SOME OF THE LAND ACQUISITION COSTS. YESTERDAY, CHUCK MOSER OF THE ALBERTA PARKS AND RECREATION WILDLIFE FOUNDATION MADE AN OFFER TO HELP WITH DEVELOPMENT COSTS. YOU SHOULD CONTACT HIM WITH YOUR PROPOSALS OF WHAT YOU WANT TO DO AFTER YOU RECEIVE THE LAND. ALSO, FOR INDIVIDUAL CLUBS THAT WISH TO LEASE LAND FOR RECREATIONAL PURPOSES, I WOULD URGE YOU TO CONTACT YOUR REGIONAL DIRECTORS OF FISH AND WILDLIFE OR PUBLIC LANDS. RECREATIONAL LEASES WILL BE CONSIDERED IF LAND IS AVAILABLE IN YOUR AREA. THORSBY CLUB HAS A PROJECT THAT'S WORTHWHILE CONSIDERING AND I'M LOOKING FORWARD TO RECEIVING SUBMISSIONS ON IT.



JOINT PROJECTS

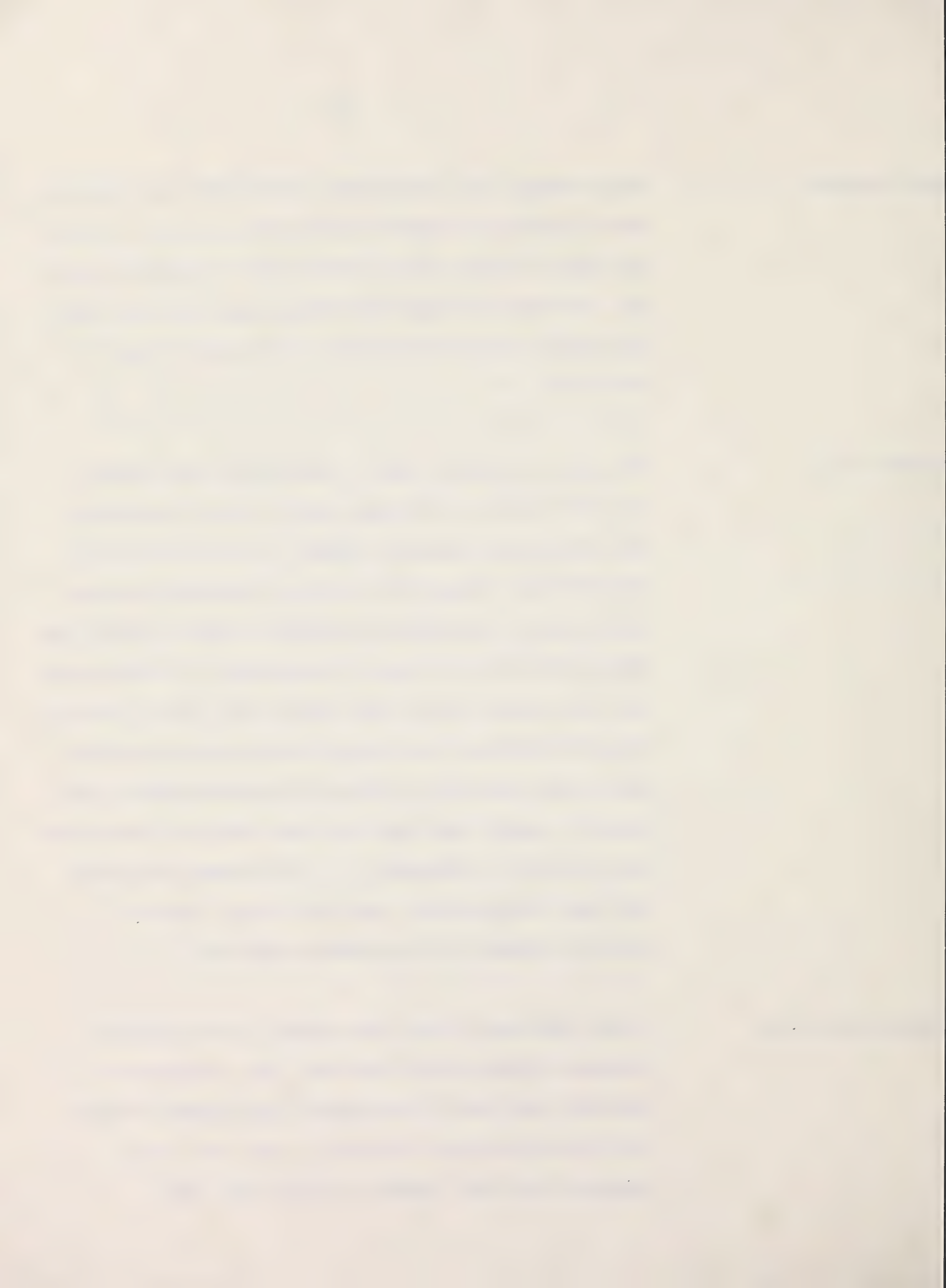
JOINT VENTURES WITH OTHER SPORTS ORGANIZATIONS CAN, AND HAVE BEEN, SUCCESSFUL IN BRINGING ABOUT LOCAL PROJECTS. IN THIS DAY AND AGE, WE CAN'T REALLY AFFORD TO DO EVERYTHING ON OUR OWN. AND THERE ARE MANY OTHER RECREATIONAL USERS OUT THERE WHO WANT TO PARTICIPATE IN JOINT-USE OF SOME OF THESE FACILITIES.

"PROJECT WILD"

IT'S ALSO MY PLEASURE TODAY TO ANNOUNCE THAT THE ALBERTA FISH AND WILDLIFE DIVISION HAS BEGUN A NEW AND INNOVATIVE WILDLIFE RESOURCE EDUCATION PROGRAM. THIS WEEK THE FIRST "PROJECT WILD" WORKSHOP WILL BE HELD IN EDMONTON AND TEAMS ARE NOW ABOUT TO DELIVER THE PROGRAM TO SCHOOLS, SCOUTS, AND OTHER YOUTH GROUPS THAT WISH TO PARTICIPATE. IN COOPERATION WITH THE ALBERTA FISH AND GAME ASSOCIATION, AND THE CANADIAN WILDLIFE FEDERATION, THE ALBERTA FISH AND WILDLIFE DIVISION HAS PROVIDED SUBSTANTIAL SUPPORT TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF THIS PROGRAM. ALBERTA ONCE AGAIN HAS TAKEN THE LEAD BY BEING THE FIRST PROVINCE TO IMPLEMENT IT. I LOOK FORWARD TO HEARING MORE ABOUT "PROJECT WILD" FROM JOE HICKMAN, CANADIAN WILDLIFE PRESIDENT, IN HIS ADDRESS LATER TODAY.

FISHERIES MANAGEMENT

WE HAVE CONTINUED TO MAKE GOOD PROGRESS IN OUR FISHERIES MANAGEMENT PROGRAM IN THE LAST YEAR. IT IS IMPORTANT TO APPRECIATE THAT ONLY 2% OF ALBERTA'S LAND SURFACE IS WATER. WE DO NOT HAVE MUCH TO "PLAY WITH". THAT'S WHY IT IS IMPORTANT THAT EVERY FISHERY BE MANAGED WITH CARE.



I AM PLEASED TO INFORM YOU THE COLD LAKE TROUT AND WALLEYE REARING FACILITY IS PROCEEDING ON SCHEDULE AND WE EXPECT TO BRING IT INTO PRODUCTION WITHIN THE TARGET DATES ORIGINALLY PLANNED.

ALLISON CREEK IN THE CROWSNEST PASS WAS OPENED IN 1983 AND IS IN PRODUCTION. THIS TROUT BROOD STOCK OPERATION IS DESIGNED TO PROVIDE AN ONGOING SUPPLY OF EGGS FOR OUR HATCHERY SYSTEM IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE RAVEN CREEK STATION.

FISHING CONTINUES TO BE ONE OF ALBERTA'S LEADING RECREATIONAL ACTIVITIES. IT IS IMPORTANT TO US, NOT ONLY IN TERMS OF THE ENJOYMENT IT BRINGS US AS ALBERTANS, BUT ALSO IN TERMS OF ITS CONTRIBUTION TO THE PROVINCIAL ECONOMY THROUGH THE TOURIST INDUSTRY. IT IS, THEREFORE, EXTREMELY IMPORTANT THAT WE CONTINUE TO PROTECT OUR FISH HABITAT, DEVELOP ACCESS FOR FISHERMEN, AND EXPAND OUR FISH PRODUCTION AND STOCKING.



TROUT RELEASE PROGRAM

IN TERMS OF OUR FISH REARING CAPABILITY, I AM PLEASED TO ADVISE THAT CONSIDERABLE PROGRESS HAS BEEN MADE IN THE PROVISION OF VOLUNTEER ASSISTANCE FROM YOUR ORGANIZATION IN THE REARING OF RAINBOW TROUT FOR RELEASE. WE HAVE MADE AVAILABLE SOME 200,000 TROUT FRY FOR THIS PURPOSE AND I WOULD HOPE WE CAN DOUBLE THIS BY 1985. IF ANY CLUB IS INTERESTED IN PARTICIPATING IN THIS PROGRAM I UNDERSTAND TOM MILL, DIRECTOR OF FISHERIES, HAS INFORMATION AVAILABLE ON THIS PROGRAM.

FISHERY ACCESS: BOW RIVER

FISHERY ACCESS REMAINS ONE OF OUR PRINCIPAL INTEREST AND PROGRAM AREAS. TOM MILL IS DOING A GREAT JOB IN HIS NEW POSITION AND WE'RE LOOKING FORWARD TO SOME MAJOR CHANGES. HOWEVER, FISHERY ACCESS IS AN AREA OF ACTIVITY THAT TAKES TIME AND IS VULNERABLE TO "RED TAPE". I'M PLEASED TO REPORT THOUGH, THAT WE'VE ACQUIRED THE MCKINNON PROPERTY NEAR CALGARY AS PART OF THAT BOW RIVER ACCESS PROGRAM. WORK CONTINUES ON SECURING OTHER KEY LOCATIONS ALONG THE BOW AND OTHER RIVERS THROUGHOUT THE PROVINCE.

ANGLERS WHO HAVE EXPERIENCED THE PLEASURES OF TROUT FISHING ON THE BOW RIVER WERE SUPPORTIVE OF THE RECENT REGULATION CHANGES TO PROHIBIT BAIT FISHING IN PORTIONS OF THE WATERWAY BELOW CALGARY. WHILE IT IS PREMATURE TO JUDGE OR MAKE AN ASSESSMENT OF THE PROGRAM, ANGLERS GENERALLY AGREE THE STRATEGY IS A POSITIVE MOVE TO RETAIN A SUPERIOR FISHERY IN THAT AREA.

COMMERCIAL FISHERY

BEFORE I LEAVE THE SUBJECT OF FISHERIES, I SHOULD MENTION SOMETHING ABOUT THE CURRENT STATUS OF OUR COMMERCIAL FISHING INDUSTRY. I THINK IT IS GENERALLY AGREED THAT, DEPENDING UPON FISH PRICES, WE USUALLY HAVE AN INFLUX OF COMMERCIAL FISHERMEN IN AND OUT OF THE MARKET, LEAVING A VERY UNSTABLE INDUSTRY. AS WELL, IT IS OUR POSITION THAT, AS THE OWNERS OF THE RESOURCE, WE MUST PROTECT OUR FISH STOCK TO ENSURE ADEQUATE REPRODUCTION AND GOOD OPPORTUNITY FOR HOOK AND LINE ANGLERS IN ALBERTA. AS MANY OF YOU ARE AWARE, WE INSTITUTED A COMMERCIAL FISHING LICENCE FREEZE IN 1983/84 WHICH ONLY ALLOWED LICENCES FOR THOSE WHO HAD COMMERCIALY FISHED IN ONE OF THE PAST TWO YEARS. WE HOPE TO DEVELOP A NEW LICENCE SYSTEM AND HAVE IT IN PLACE IN THE NEAR FUTURE. I DO NOT, HOWEVER, BELIEVE THAT THIS CAN BE DONE WITHOUT IMPROVING THE MARKET OPPORTUNITIES FOR ALBERTA'S COMMERCIAL FISHERMEN. WE ARE WORKING HARD ON THAT LEVEL WITH OUR FEDERAL COUNTERPARTS AND WE HOPE TO TAKE SOME POSITIVE INITIATIVES IN INCREASING THE MARKETPLACE.

"BUCK FOR WILDLIFE" PROGRAM

I SUPPOSE SOMETHING THAT'S VERY DEAR TO YOU IS A PROGRAM THAT YOU STARTED OFF A NUMBER OF YEARS AGO -- THE "BUCK FOR WILDLIFE" PROGRAM. DURING THE YEAR, WE HAVE HAD POLICY CHANGES AFFECTING THE PROGRAM'S ADMINISTRATION. LIKE HUNTER EDUCATION, "BUCK FOR WILDLIFE" EXISTS PRIMARILY BECAUSE OF YOU, THE ORGANIZED SPORTSMAN. YOU SAW THE NEED AND YOU MADE THAT CALL, SO WE'RE RESPONDING.

ONE OF THE GOALS WE HAVE SET IN THE DESIGN AND IMPLEMENTATION OF THE "BUCK FOR WILDLIFE" PROGRAM IS TO TRY TO ESTABLISH AT LEAST ONE PROJECT PER YEAR WITH EACH FISH AND GAME CLUB. WHETHER THE PROJECT IS BLUEBIRDS, OR BIG GAME, OR HABITAT ENHANCEMENT, WE BELIEVE THAT ALBERTA NEEDS MORE COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION IN THE "BUCK FOR WILDLIFE" PROGRAM. TOWARDS THAT END, MAY I SUGGEST THAT EACH CLUB PREPARE A PROGRAM SUBMISSION FOR THE REGIONAL DIRECTOR OF YOUR AREA. WE HOPE TO KEEP THE DECISION-MAKING PROCESS TO THE REGIONAL LEVEL. WE'D LIKE YOU TO KEEP YOUR PROJECTS TO ABOUT \$10,000 OR UNDER SO THAT WE CAN ACCOMMODATE THEM.

HUNDREDS OF SMALL HABITAT ENHANCEMENT PROJECTS ON PRIVATE AND PUBLIC LANDS WILL HAVE A GREATER, MORE POSITIVE EFFECT THAN A FEW LARGE PROJECTS. KEEP THAT IN MIND. THE STAFF OF THE FISH AND WILDLIFE DIVISION WILL BE ABLE TO GIVE YOU THE BENEFIT OF THEIR PROFESSIONAL GUIDANCE ON YOUR PROJECT DEVELOPMENT. LET'S MAKE 1984 THE YEAR FOR FISH AND WILDLIFE PROJECTS IN YOUR COMMUNITY. LET'S STOP TALKING ABOUT IT AND LET'S DO IT! PICK-UP THE CHALLENGE OF CHUCK MOSER YESTERDAY, AND MAYBE SOME ADDITIONAL HELP COULD COME FROM THERE.

IN ADDITION, I HAVE INSTRUCTED OUR STAFF TO CONSIDER THE EXPANSION OF THE RED DEER HABITAT DEVELOPMENT PILOT PROGRAM, WHICH HAS BEEN RUNNING FOR SEVERAL YEARS, TO OTHER AREAS THROUGHOUT THE PROVINCE AND TO LOOK AT OTHER PROGRAM OPTIONS. I HAVE DIRECTED THE DIVISION TO CONSIDER JOINT FUNDING OF YOUR PROPOSED PROJECTS WITH DUCKS UNLIMITED, THE ALBERTA PARKS AND RECREATION FOUNDATION, AND ANY OTHER FEDERAL OR MUNICIPAL BODY THAT WANTS TO GET INVOLVED.

TOGETHER WE CAN GET THE JOB DONE, LET'S GET AT IT AND MOVE! I'VE HAD DISCUSSIONS WITH BOTH DUCKS UNLIMITED AND CHUCK MOSER; THEY'RE EXCITED ABOUT GETTING INVOLVED AND I'M SURE WE CAN COUNT ON THEIR PARTICIPATION.

GRAZING RESERVE USE

I WOULD LIKE TO MENTION THAT DEPARTMENT STAFF ARE WORKING ON A PROGRAM TO EXPAND THE USE OF GRAZING RESERVES THROUGH AN INTENSIVE FISH AND WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT PROPOSAL WHERE OTHER TYPES OF RECREATIONAL USES CAN TAKE PLACE ON OUR GRAZING RESERVES.



WE'RE PARTICULARLY INTERESTED IN THE USE OF GRAZING RESERVES FOR SUCH THINGS AS "PUT-AND-TAKE" PHEASANT HUNTING OPPORTUNITIES. WE HOPE THAT MORE DISCUSSION CAN TAKE PLACE AND WE CAN MAKE THOSE LARGE LAND TRACKS MORE USEABLE BY THE PUBLIC. TO DATE, PRIMARILY THEY'VE BEEN USED FOR RAISING CATTLE FIVE MONTHS OF THE YEAR. WE HAVE PERMANENT FACILITIES OUT THERE WITH A YEAR-ROUND MANAGER. THE RECREATIONAL USER HAS NOT REALLY PUT A LOT OF DEMANDS ON US TO USE THOSE AREAS. I'M ASKING YOU TO LOOK AT THE PUBLIC LAND AREA THEN GET TOGETHER WITH OUR STAFF AND LET'S PUT BETTER USE TO THOSE LARGE TRACTS OF PUBLIC LAND.

PUBLIC ACCESS

LAST YEAR, AS I INDICATED TO YOU A LITTLE EARLIER, I SAID I WOULD TAKE INITIATIVES TO REVIEW THE MATTER OF PUBLIC ACCESS TO LAND. OVER THE PAST YEAR, I HAVE COME TO APPRECIATE BOTH THE COMPLEXITY AND SENSITIVITY OF THIS MATTER. I DOUBT THAT THERE WILL BE A SIMPLE SOLUTION THAT WILL RECEIVE UNANIMOUS ENDORSEMENT. I HAVE, HOWEVER, SINCE YOUR LAST CONVENTION, TAKEN A MAJOR INITIATIVE TO REVIEW THE BROAD RANGE OF ALL PUBLIC LAND POLICIES, INCLUDING THE MATTER OF ACCESS. WE ARE PRESENTLY WAITING FOR THE RESULTS OF THE E.C.A. HEARINGS THAT HAVE BEEN HELD ACROSS THE PROVINCE. A LOT OF GOOD INPUT IS COMING TO US THAT WAY.



AT A RECENT FISH AND WILDLIFE ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING, I REQUESTED THE COUNCIL TO PROVIDE ME WITH THEIR VIEWS ON THE MOST DESIRABLE OPTIONS THEY BELIEVED SHOULD BE CONSIDERED TO CLARIFY THE LAW ON THIS MATTER. I AM ANXIOUSLY LOOKING FORWARD TO THE COUNCIL'S ADVICE ON THIS MATTER. AS I HAVE STATED BEFORE, YOUR USE RESEPECT PROGRAM, PROPER LAND MANAGEMENT, AND VOLUNTARY DESIGNATED ROUTES ARE THE ANSWER TO THE ACCESS PROBLEM. THE LEGAL ROUTE IS ONLY ONE PART OF THAT PROBLEM.

THROUGHOUT THE NEXT YEAR, BARRING UNFORESEEN OBSTACLES, I AM HOPING TO MAKE SOME FURTHER CLARIFICATION IN BOTH POLICY AND LEGISLATION WITH REFERENCE TO THE MATTER OF PUBLIC LAND ACCESS. THOUGH, AS I STATED IN MY OPENING REMARKS, MY VOTE ON THIS IS ONLY ONE IN SEVENTY-FOUR, BUT I'M GOING TO BE ACTIVELY INVOLVED IN DISCUSSIONS AT THAT LEVEL.

ONE THING THAT HAS BECOME VERY CLEAR TO ME IN MY EXPERIENCE ON THIS IMPORTANT MATTER IS THAT, UNDERLYING ANY ULTIMATE POLICY OR LEGAL POSITION ON THE QUESTION OF ACCESS, ONE KEY ELEMENT THAT HAS TO BE THERE IS THE CONTINUOUS PROMOTION OF ETHICAL CONDUCT AND A DEVELOPMENT OF MUTUAL RESPECT BETWEEN THE LAND TENANT AND THE RECREATIONAL USER. THAT HAS GOT TO BE THE KEY TO IT. AND WHETHER THE LANDS ARE PUBLIC OR PRIVATE, THE "USE RESPECT" PROGRAM, I THINK, REALLY IS GOING TO CURE A LOT OF OUR PROBLEMS.

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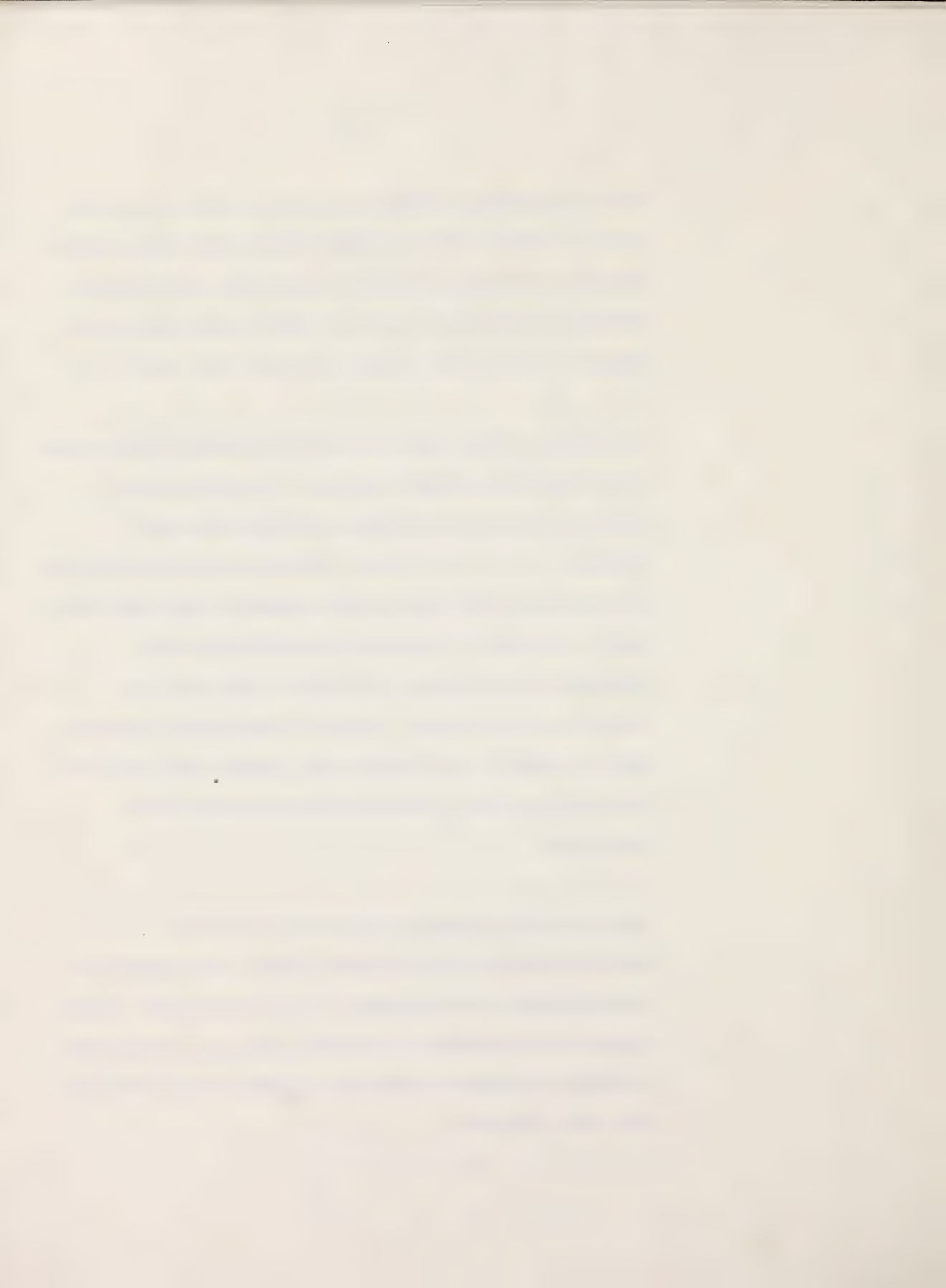
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IF WE HAVE SPECIFIC PROBLEMS OF LACK OF ACCESS IN CERTAIN AREAS, I WOULDN'T LIKE TO ADDRESS THEM AS INDIVIDUAL ISSUES; WE HAVE TO LOOK VERY SERIOUSLY AT, AND MAKE SURE OUR LAND MANAGERS ARE MANAGING IN THE WAY THAT WE WANT THEM TO WITH REGARD TO MULTIPLE-USE CONCEPTS FOR OUR PUBLIC LANDS.

IN CLOSING, I THINK THAT YOU'RE VERY FORTUNATE IN THE CHOICE OF YOUR CONFERENCE THEME THIS YEAR -- LAW ENFORCEMENT, AMERICA'S OLDEST AND CONTINUING RESOURCE MANAGEMENT STRATEGY. IN THIS DAY AND AGE, WHEN LAW AND ENFORCEMENT ARE SO OFTEN CRITICIZED, YOU ARE VERY FORWARD TO MAKE THAT YOUR THEME. I AM HAPPY TO SEE THAT YOUR ASSOCIATION DOES RECOGNIZE THE EFFORTS AND THE VALUE OF YOUR FISH AND WILDLIFE OFFICER SERVICE. ALBERTA'S ENFORCEMENT PROGRAM IS WELL RECOGNIZED AT THE NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL LEVEL FOR THE QUALITY OF STAFF AND PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS THEY DEMONSTRATE.

DURING THE YEAR, STAFF OF THE DIVISION'S SPECIAL INVESTIGATION TEAM HAVE CONDUCTED SEVERAL MAJOR UNDERCOVER OPERATIONS WHICH HAVE RESULTED IN MAJOR CONVICTIONS. YOUR SUPPORT FOR OUR PROGRAM IS IMPORTANT AND I, AS THE MINISTER IN CHARGE, APPRECIATE KNOWING THE OFFICERS OF THE DIVISION HAVE YOUR CONFIDENCE.



ILLEGAL MARKETING

IN LIGHT OF THE THEME OF YOUR CONFERENCE I BELIEVE THIS IS AN APPROPRIATE TIME TO MAKE A PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT RELATING TO THE BREAKING OF SEVERAL MAJOR ILLEGAL FISH AND WILDLIFE MARKETING RINGS IN ALBERTA. WHAT I AM ABOUT TO READ IS CONTAINED IN A PRESS RELEASE DATED MONDAY, FEB. 28, 1984, THIS ANNOUNCEMENT COVERS A FIVE-MONTH UNDERCOVER INVESTIGATION BY OUR FISH AND WILDLIFE DIVISION.

ILLEGAL MARKETING OF BIG GAME AND FISH IS A PROBLEM AND AN ACTIVITY THAT WE MUST BE PREPARED NOT TO TOLERATE. THE DEPARTMENT HAS DIRECTED CONSIDERABLE FIELD TIME AND EFFORT TO ADDRESS THE PROBLEM AND THIS PROGRAM WILL CONTINUE. I URGE THE PUBLIC AND YOU TO REPORT ANY INSTANCE OF SUSPECTED BIG GAME MEAT SALES TO OUR FISH AND WILDLIFE DIVISION WITHOUT DELAY. WE NEED YOUR HELP.

WITH REGARD TO THE ALBERTA FISHERY, LEGALLY LICENSED COMMERCIAL FISHERMEN AND ANGLERS HAVE EXPRESSED CONCERN IN THE PAST ABOUT ILLEGAL MARKETING OF FISH BEING LARGELY RESPONSIBLE FOR THE DEPLETION OF STOCKS IN SOME LAKES AND THE PRESENCE OF POOR QUALITY FISH IN THE LOCAL CONSUMER MARKETS. LICENSED COMMERCIAL FISHERMEN, IN PARTICULAR, ARE CONCERNED WITH THE PROBLEM OF LEGITIMATE MARKETS FOR FISH BEING SUPPRESSED BY THE ILLEGAL FISH TRADE.

OUR SPECIAL TEAM OF INVESTIGATORS WAS ASSIGNED BY THE FISH AND WILDLIFE DIVISION THIS YEAR TO WORK ON THIS ILLEGAL TRAFFICKING AND MARKETING OF BIG GAME MEAT AND FISH AS A MEANS TO PROVIDE A GREATER DEGREE OF PROTECTION FOR RESOURCE STOCKS AND TO IMPROVE ADHERENCE TO REGULATIONS. WE ADDRESSED, SPECIFICALLY, THE ILLEGAL SALE OF FISH IN THIS INVESTIGATION.

AS A RESULT OF THE INVESTIGATION, APPROXIMATELY 78 INDIVIDUALS AND FIRMS HAVE BEEN CHARGED WITH A VARIETY OF OFFENCES UNDER THE WILDLIFE ACT, THE FISHERIES REGULATIONS, AND THE FISH MARKETING ACT. IN TOTAL, SOME 153 CHARGES HAVE BEEN LAID IN THE LAST FEW DAYS. FISH AND WILDLIFE PERSONNEL ARE IN THE PROCESS OF SERVING THE REQUIRED LEGAL DOCUMENTS AT THIS TIME.

DURING THE INVESTIGATION, FISH AND WILDLIFE FIELD INVESTIGATORS WITNESSED THE SALE OF ABOUT 14,000 POUNDS OF ILLEGALLY ACQUIRED FISH AND 2,500 POUNDS OF BIG GAME. WHAT IS VERY ALARMING THOUGH, IS OUR INVESTIGATOR'S REPORT THAT THE EXTENT OF ILLEGAL SALE AND MARKETING OF BOTH BIG GAME AND FISH IS VERY SIGNIFICANT AND RELATIVELY WIDESPREAD THROUGHOUT THE PROVINCE.



THE UNDERCOVER PROGRAM WAS CONDUCTED WITH THE ASSISTANCE AND DIRECTION OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL'S DEPARTMENT PROSECUTORS.

IT IS MY SINCERE HOPE THAT THIS ACTION WILL BE TAKEN AS A WARNING TO THOSE WHO WISH TO PARTICIPATE IN THE BUSINESS OF ORGANIZED ILLEGAL TRAFFICKING IN BIG GAME OR FISH. THE FISH AND WILDLIFE RESOURCES TAKEN FOR SUCH PURPOSES ARE LITTLE MORE THAN A FORM OF THEFT. THEREFORE, I'M ASKING YOU, THE PUBLIC, TO HELP THE FISH AND WILDLIFE OFFICER PUT AN END TO THIS ILLEGAL MARKETING AND ILLEGAL SALE OF BIG GAME MEAT AND FISH. YOU CAN DO THIS BY REPORTING ANY SUCH ACTIVITY TO YOUR NEAREST FISH AND WILDLIFE OFFICER AND WE'LL KEEP YOUR CONFIDENCE. I THANK YOU VERY MUCH -- GOOD HUNTING AND GOOD FISHING!

N.L.C. - B.N.C.



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